

Appl'n No: 10/702,178
Amdt dated September 25, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A roof rack assembly for storing items above a motor vehicle having a roof and a side fixedly secured to the roof, said roof rack assembly comprising:

a pair of rails fixedly secured to the roof, said rails extending generally parallel to each other, each of said pair of rails having a fore end, an aft end, and a channel extending ~~[[therebetween]]~~ therein, at least one of said pair of rails defining an upper housing disposed above said channel and extending along a portion thereof;

a tray having a first end, with opposite sides thereof slidably engaging said rails and moveable between said fore and aft ends of said rails, said tray including at least one sliding bracket slidably engaging said channel along at least one of said pair of rails;

a pair of link ~~[[arm]]~~ arms pivotally extending between one of said pair of rails and said tray, said link ~~[[arm]]~~ arms including a slide bushing disposed within said upper housing and movable therealong as said sliding bracket moves along one of said rails;

a pair of pivot arms, each of said pivot arms pivotally coupled to opposite sides of a second end of said tray linkably connecting and continuously supporting said tray to the vehicle; and

when said first end of said tray is at the fore end of said rails, said tray is in a storage position and when said first end of said tray is at the aft end, said tray is in a loading position and maintained therein by said link ~~[[arm]]~~ arms, said tray extending over the vehicle when in said storage position and inclined relative to the vehicle when in said loading position.

2. (Original) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 1 further comprising mounting brackets fixedly securable to an aft end of the motor vehicle and pivotally coupled to the pivot arms, each of said mounting brackets having a stop for limiting pivotal movement of said pivot arms preventing said tray from moving beyond said loading position.

3. (Cancelled)

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4. (Previously Presented) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 2 wherein said tray includes a pivot bracket extending downwardly from said second end thereof for pivotally coupling said tray to at least one of said pair of pivot arms.

5. (Original) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 4 wherein said sliding bracket includes a slide pin extending out therefrom for slidingly engaging said channel.

6. (Original) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 5 wherein said pivot bracket includes a pivot pin pivotally coupled to one of said pair of pivot arms at said receiving end thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 6 wherein said slide pin includes a roller fixedly secured thereto for enabling smooth sliding engagement of said tray along said rails.

8. (Original) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 7 wherein said tray includes a pair of storage ramps disposed therealong for retaining the items in place along said tray.

9. (Original) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 1 further comprising a drive mechanism operatively engaging said tray effecting said movement between said storage position and said loading position.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 9 wherein said drive mechanism includes a lead screw disposed within said channel and a circular guide threadably engaging said lead screw for moving said tray along said rails.

12. (Original) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 11 including a motor drivingly engaging said lead screw.

13. (Original) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 12 including a pivot bracket extending downwardly from said second end of said tray.

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14. (Cancelled)
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Previously Presented) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 11 including a motor operatively connected to said drive mechanism for moving said tray along said pair of rails.
18. (Original) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 9 wherein said drive mechanism includes a belt disposed within said channel.
19. (Original) A roof rack assembly as set forth in claim 18 wherein said drive mechanism includes a pair of pulleys disposed along said channel with said belt extending thereabout.